

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed May 21, 2003. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1 – 4, 6 – 8 and 10, 11 and 19 - 33 remain pending. In particular, Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 6, 8 10 and 11, has added claims 19 - 33, and has canceled claims 5, 9 and 12 – 18 without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicant has canceled claims 5, 9 and 12 – 18 merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicant so chooses, and does not intend to dedicate the canceled subject matter to the public. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Office Action indicates that claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Kenney*. As set forth before, Applicant has amended claim 1 and respectfully asserts that the rejection, as to this claim, has been accommodated for at least the reasons specified below.

Respectfully referring the Examiner's attention to claim 1, that claim recites:

1. A system for electrically isolating a portion of a wafer comprising:
a first wafer having a first side and an opposing second side;
a first conductor extending through said first wafer from said first side to said second side;
a first conductor insulating layer extending through said first wafer, said first conductor insulating layer engaging said first conductor and disposed between said first conductor and material of said first wafer, said first conductor insulating layer being formed of dielectric material; and
a first outer insulating layer extending through said first wafer from said first side to said second side and spaced from said first conductor insulating layer such that said first outer insulating layer at least partially electrically isolates said first conductor from portions of the first wafer located outside said first outer

insulating layer, said first outer insulating layer being formed of dielectric material. (Emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully asserts that *Kenney* is legally deficient for the purpose of anticipating claim 1, because *Kenney* does not teach or otherwise disclose at least the features emphasized above in claim 1. Specifically, *Kenney* does not teach or disclose at least “a first conductor extending through said first wafer from said first side to said second side,” in combination with “a first outer insulating layer extending through said first wafer from said first side to said second side and spaced from said first conductor insulating layer such that said first outer insulating layer at least partially electrically isolates said first conductor from portions of the first wafer located outside said first outer insulating layer.” Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that the rejection of claim 1 is improper and requests that the rejection be removed.

Since claims 2 – 4, 6 – 8, 10, 11 and 19 are dependent claims that incorporate all of the features/limitations of claim 1, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that may serve as an independent basis for patentability.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action indicates that claims 2 – 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kenney* in further view of *Iida* and *Yamazaki*. As set forth above, Applicant has canceled claims 5 and 9 without waiver, disclaimer or prejudice and respectfully asserts, therefore, that the rejection as to these claims has been rendered moot. With respect to the remaining claims, Applicant respectfully asserts that the asserted prior art is legally deficient for the purpose of rendering obvious these claims.

Applicant respectfully asserts that the cited references are legally deficient for the purpose of rendering the pending claims obvious, because the references do not teach or reasonably suggest all of the features/limitations recited in the claims. Specifically, *Kenney* does not teach or reasonably suggest at least the features/limitations described above with respect to the discussion of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102. Additionally, neither *Iida* nor *Yamazaki* remedy this deficiency. In particular, neither *Iida* nor *Yamazaki* teaches or reasonably suggests the features/limitations that *Kenney* fails to teach or reasonably suggest.

Since claims 2 – 4, 6 – 8, 10, 11 and 19 are dependent claims that incorporate all of the features/limitations of claim 1, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims also are in condition for allowance, because the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. 103 is improper.

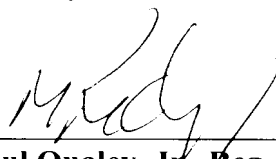
Newly Added Claims

Upon entry of the amendments in this Response, Applicant has added new claims 19 - 33. Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 19 is in condition for allowance for at least the reason that claim 19 is a dependent claim that incorporates all of the features/limitations of claim 1, which is allowable for at least the reasons indicated above. Independent claims 20 and 30 (and their respective dependent claims) are also allowable over the art of record. Both independent claims recite numerous limitations not taught or suggested in the cited art.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims 1 - 4, 6 - 8 and 10, 11 and 19 - 33 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

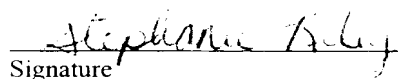
Respectfully submitted,



M. Paul Qualey, Jr., Reg. No. 43, 024

**THOMAS, KAYDEN,
HORSTEMEYER & RISLEY, L.L.P.**
100 Galleria Parkway N.W., Suite 1750
Atlanta, Georgia 30339
(770) 933-9500

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on 8/15/03.


Signature